

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Added text is underlined and deleted text is either struck through or shown in double enclosing brackets. The undersigned avers that no new matter has been added.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a dispute about a pre-existing ~~agreement~~
contract, the method comprising:
automatically receiving, over a network by a system computer, information relating to the dispute, the information being generated from one of an initiator computer associated with an initiator and a respondent computer associated with a respondent, the initiator and the respondent being parties to the ~~agreement~~ pre-existing contract; and
iteratively providing portions of the information to the other of the initiator computer and the respondent computer in accordance with predetermined criteria, the predetermined criteria relating to either a rating of a portion of the information supplied after a start of the dispute by the initiator or the respondent, or relating to the number of portions of the information to be provided at an iteration.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically retrieving information relating to the community of the other of the initiator and the respondent.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received information includes at least one factor and an evaluation of a desirability or a cost of the at least one factor.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one factor includes at least two items including an ~~[[of]]~~ historical harm, a future harm, an incentive, a punishment, a request, an offer, and a desired outcome.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising iteratively receiving, at the system computer, factors relating to the dispute from the other of the initiator computer and the respondent computer.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising iteratively receiving evaluations of a desirability or a cost of the portions of iteratively provided information from the other of the initiator computer and the respondent computer.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically proposing an agreement to resolve the dispute based on the received information.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the agreement is automatically proposed in accordance with factors relating to the dispute received from the other of the initiator computer and the respondent computer.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the agreement is automatically proposed by the system computer in accordance with a received evaluation of desirability from the initiator computer or the respondent computer and a received evaluation of cost from the other of the initiator computer or the respondent computer, the evaluations being associated with the same portion of the dispute related information or the same dispute related factor.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically providing advice from the system computer to the other of the initiator computer and the respondent computer based on iteratively provided information.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~for managing to manage~~ a dispute about a pre-existing ~~agreement contract, the apparatus~~ comprising:
a computer ~~[[for]]~~ automatically ~~to receive~~ ~~receiving~~ information relating to the dispute from one of an initiator and a respondent, the initiator and the respondent being parties to the ~~pre-existing contract agreement, and for the computer further~~ iteratively ~~providing to provide~~ portions of the information to the other of the initiator and the respondent in accordance with predetermined criteria relating to either a rating of a portion of the information supplied after a start of the dispute by the initiator or the respondent, or relating to the number of portions of the information to be provided at an iteration.
12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also ~~[[for]]~~ ~~to~~ automatically ~~retrieving~~ ~~retrieve~~ information relating to the community of the other of the initiator and the respondent.
13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the received information includes at least one factor and an evaluation of the desirability or cost of the factor.
14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the at least one factor includes at least two ~~items including an~~ ~~[[of]]~~ historical harm, ~~a~~ future harm, an incentive, a punishment, a request, an offer, and a desired outcome.
15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also ~~[[for]]~~ iteratively ~~to receive~~ ~~receiving~~ factors relating to the dispute from the other of the initiator and the respondent.
16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also ~~[[for]]~~ iteratively ~~to~~ ~~receive~~ ~~receiving~~ evaluations of the desirability or cost of the portions of iteratively provided information from the other of the initiator and the respondent.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also [[for]] automatically to propose ~~proposing~~ an agreement to resolve the dispute based on the received information.
18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the agreement is automatically to be proposed in accordance with factors relating to the dispute received from the other of the initiator and the respondent.
19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the agreement is automatically to be proposed in accordance with an evaluation of desirability from the initiator or the respondent and an evaluation of cost from the other of the initiator or the respondent, the evaluations being associated with the same portion of the dispute related information or the same dispute related factor.
20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the computer is also [[for]] automatically to provide ~~providing~~ advice to the other of the initiator and the respondent based on iteratively provided information.